

JANUARY

at the
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

JANUARY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 19
Time: 8:15 p. m.
Place: Morrison Auditorium
Speaker: Howard L. Orians
Subject: "THE LAND THE GLACIERS FORGOT"

It is a curious phenomenon that a huge area in the midwest was completely bypassed by the great glaciers -- resulting in a terrain entirely different from the surrounding territory. Mr. Orians, in this unusual and interesting film, interrelates wildlife and geology. This is the second in the 1959-1960 series of Audubon Screen Tours. (Members and guests.)

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"PARADE OF THE PLANETS"

During 1960, our five planets indulge in some unusual starry caprices, a preview of which is the basis for Morrison's current presentation. Performances are given daily, Wednesday through Sunday, 3:30 and 8:30 p.m., with an extra matinee performance at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Through February 14. (Adults, 75¢, Juniors, 40¢)

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

"INDIANS OF THE PLAINS"

Thirteen rare and beautiful pastel drawings by Canadian painter Nicholas de Grandmaison who has devoted his life in seeking out and painting the North American aborigine. Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature. Through January 18.

"SCIENCE IN ACTION"

Monday nights, 7:00 p.m., KRON-TV, Channel 4

- January 11: "Cosmic Ray Report" with Guest Scientists Dr. William Fretter and Dr. Robert Brown, University of California.
- January 18: "Smog" with Benjamin Linsky, Bay Area Air Pollution Control District
- January 25: "The Story of Jade" with Richard Gump of Gump's, San Francisco
- February 1: "Age of Vertical Flight" with Stanley Hiller, Hiller Helicopters

NEWS and NOTES

The San Francisco Aquarium Society has presented Steinhart Aquarium with an equipment fund of \$3,000 and another gift of \$1,000 to the Department of Ichthyology. Not limiting themselves in their generosity, the Society also sponsored a fish collecting trip during the Christmas holidays to Puerto Cito, Baja California, where they sought groupers, totuava and other fish common to the Upper Gulf, none of which are on display in Steinhart. Walter Schneebeil and Robert Dempster headed the trip.

The Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Entomological Society was held on December 12 at the Academy. Dr. Richard L. Doutt, as outgoing president, gave his presidential address, "Natural Enemies and Insect Speciation". Dr. J. W. Tilden, San Jose State College, was elected president for 1960 and Paul Arnaud of the Academy was elected vice president.

North American Bird Hall is taking on a new look. Three of the permanent displays, including the penguin, the extinct birds, and bird migration exhibits, have been completely redone and are well worth an inspection by Academy Members.

When a group of Cub Scouts attended one of the special morning shows at Morrison Planetarium, they became a bit over-enthusiastic when pushing through the entrance, the result being that two or three of them fell down in the crush. One of them, on getting to his feet, looked up and saw the star-projector for the first time. Wide-eyed, he gasped, "Boy - dig that crazy machine gun!"

37 Bay Area Medical Librarians were recent guests of the staff of the Mailliard Library at their monthly meeting.

On January 9, Alan E. Leviton, Assistant Curator (in charge) of the Department of Reptiles and Amphibians will play host to numerous herpetologists from Berkeley, Stanford and other northern California institutions. They will meet for a day-long exchange of ideas and information as well as an inspection of the Department's new facilities.

During the Christmas holidays, Dr. Edward Kessel undertook his 14th expedition in his unflagging pursuit of flat-footed flies. Dr. and Mrs. Kessel, in previous collecting trips, have covered both the northern and central coastal areas of California. The recent two-week expedition was devoted to southern California.

December 21 marked Earl S. Herald's 300th performance as program host for "Science in Action". Co-workers Vern Loudon, Ernest Rook, Robert T. Orr and Benjamin Draper entertained at dinner after the Monday telecast and presented him with an inscribed silver tray. A delayed salute to you, Dr. Herald, from the entire Academy!

The Academy's instrument shop has recently completed its third Foucault pendulum for other institutions in the U.S., namely the Museum of Natural History, San Diego, University of Dayton, Ohio, and the Boston Museum of Science. With negotiations now in progress with four other institutions for further pendulums (including the Smithsonian), Alvin Gundred of the shop staff commented that this was getting to be such an assembly line production that the great bronze balls would probably be cheaper by the dozen!

George Bunton, Planetarium Manager, was recently named program chairman of the newly formed Optical Society of Northern California.

BOTANISTS PLEASE NOTE!

December 21 was the tenth anniversary of the publication of John Thomas Howell's "Marin Flora". With the assistance of the California Botanical Club, the most recent issue of Leaflets of Western Botany serves as an addendum, by Mr. Howell, to his original text, including information on additional species discovered during the ten year period as well as further notes on geographic distribution. This booklet is available from the Academy's Department of Botany at a cost of 50¢.

A large collection of shells gathered in Peru by Dr. D. L. Frizzell, Department of Geology, School of Mines and Metallurgy, Rolla, Missouri, is now being incorporated into the general collection of the Academy's Geology Department.

The most recent survey by Telepulse, a television viewing index, gave "Science in Action" a rating of 14.5, or, in other words, 31.7 percent of the total audience in a five-station market. This adds up to a figure of 561,581 interested "S in A" viewers in the northern California area.

In further observance of the one-hundredth anniversary of the publication of "Origin of Species", the California Botanical Club has devoted two of its recent meetings to the comparison of Darwin's and Lamarck's theories of evolution, with particular reference to life on the Galapagos Islands.

The California Horticultural Society will meet on January 18, 7:30 p.m., in Morrison Auditorium. The speaker will be George Spalding, Superintendent of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia, who will discuss ornamental plants of Australia adaptable to California. The meeting is open to the interested public.

Meet the Staff



MEARL CARSON joined the staff of the Academy in July, 1959, as Curator of the Department of Exhibits. A Nebraskan, he came to the Academy after a long and successful career with the Fort Worth Children's Museum, in Fort Worth, Texas, where he was Curator of Natural History, a title that, in no way, indicates the scope of his activities. While there, he not only supervised the Department of Natural History and the live Museum, but was also in charge of the Charlie M. Noble Planetarium where he lectured, developed many special projectors and created sound effects among other things.

Mr. Carson received his higher education at the University of Denver. During the war he was with the U.S. Air Force in the European Theatre. He is married and has two charming daughters, Jill and Susan, 13 and 6 respectively.

In the brief time he has been with the Academy, Mearl has made his presence felt, having supervised the design and execution of the initial exhibit in the Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany, created a special exhibit for the Pacific Festival for the promoting of PACIFIC DISCOVERY, presented "Aboriginal Australia" and "Indians of the Plains" in Lovell White Hall, to mention but four of his 1959 projects. He is full of plans for future exhibits, time and money permitting. The Academy is lucky to have him!

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

Regular Membership

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Russell Mackey	Mr. Edward R. Vinn
Mr. & Mrs.	Mr. William E. Wilds
Peter J. Maffe	

Contributing Membership

Dr. Grant Levin

Student Membership

Jeffrey D. Bulf

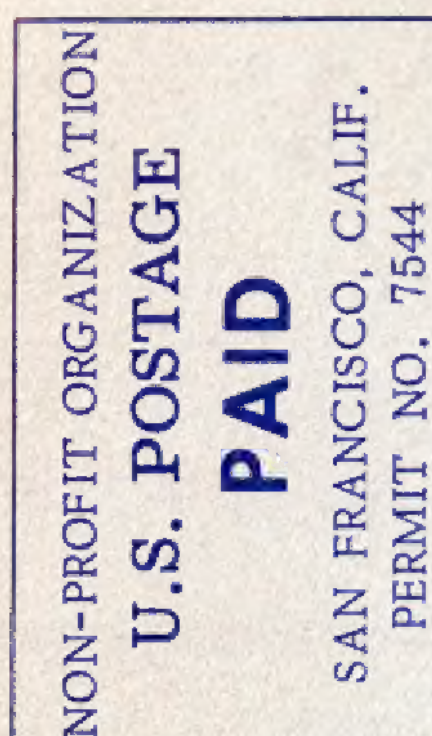
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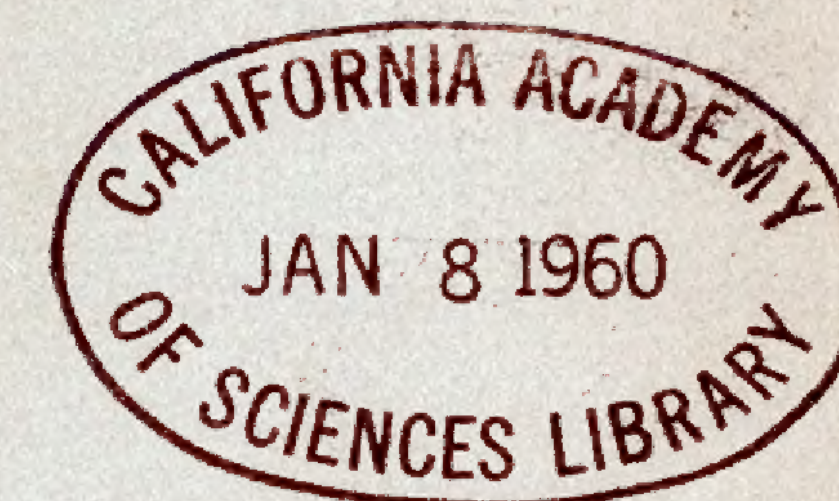
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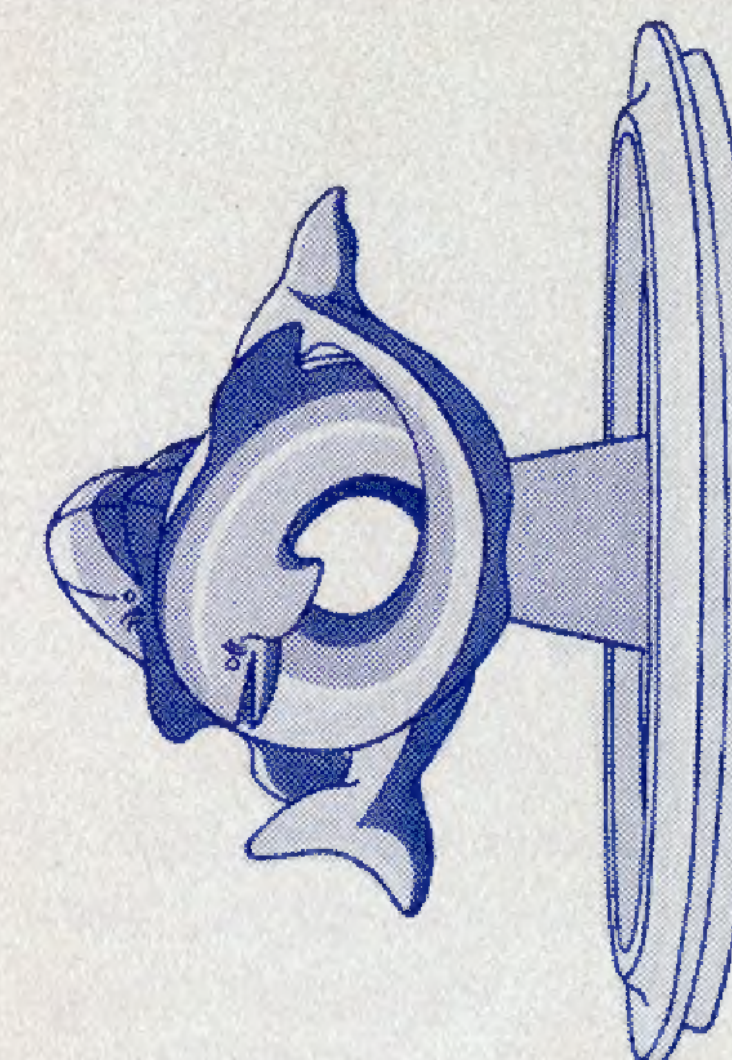
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